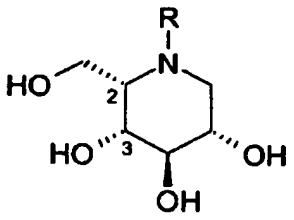
## AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) 1. A compound of formula (I) in free or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt ~~or prodrug thereof~~ form:




(I)

wherein

R is phenylmethyl-, wherein phenyl is substituted by $OR^1$; and

$R^1$ is $C_{4-5}$ alkyl.

2. (Previously presented) The compound as defined in claim 1 wherein the $OR^1$ substituent on the phenyl is on the 4 position.

3. (Currently amended) The compound of claim 1 being 3,4,5-piperidinetriol, 2-(hydroxymethyl)-1-[(4-pentyloxyphenyl)methyl]-, (2S,3R,4R,5S), in free or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt ~~or prodrug thereof~~form.

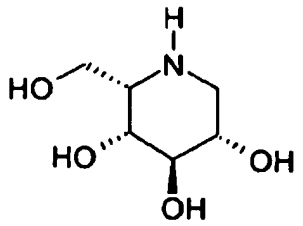
4. (Currently amended) The compound of claim 1 being 3,4,5-piperidinetriol, 1-[ (4-butoxyphenyl)methyl]-2-(hydroxymethyl)-, (2S,3R,4R,5S), in free or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt ~~or prodrug thereof~~form.

5. (Cancelled).

6. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the compound as defined in claim 1, together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, excipients and/or diluents.

7. (Withdrawn–Previously presented) A process for the preparation of the compound as defined in claim 1, which process comprises:

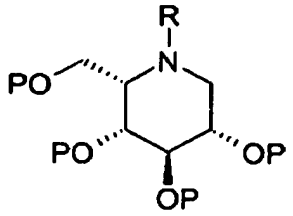
a) reacting a compound of formula (II):



(II)

with an aldehyde of formula $R^2CHO$, wherein $R^2$ is phenyl which is substituted as defined in claim 1, using $NaBH_3CN$ or a supported reagent in acetic acid-methanol or HCI-methanol, or using $NaBH(OAc)_3$ in a solvent, or

b) deprotectinq a compound of formula (III):

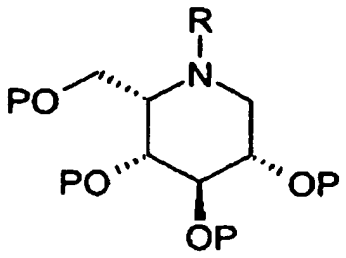


(III)

wherein R is as defined in claim 1, and P, which may be the same or different, are hydroxy protecting groups.

8-22. (Cancelled).

23. (Original) A compound of formula (III):




(III)

wherein R is as defined in claim 1, and P, which may be the same or different, are hydroxy protecting groups.

24. (Withdrawn–Previously presented) A method for inhibiting glucosylceramide synthase comprising administering to a subject an effective amount of the compound of any one of claims 1 to 4.

25. (Withdrawn–Previously presented) A method for treating a glycolipid storage disease comprising administering to a subject an effective amount of the compound of any one of claims 1 to 4.

26. (Withdrawn–Previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the glycolipid storage disease is Gaucher disease, Sandhoffs disease, Tay-Sachs disease, Fabry disease, or GMI gangliosidosis.

27. (Withdrawn–Previously presented) A method for treating Niemann-Pick disease type C, mucopolysaccharidosis type I, mucopolysaccharidosis type IIIA, mucopolysaccharidosis type IIIB, mucopolysaccharidosis type VI or mucopolysaccharidosis type VII, α-mannosidosis, or mucolipidosis type IV, comprising administering to a subject an effective amount of the compound of any one of claims 1 to 4.

28. (Withdrawn–Previously presented) A method for treating cancer in which glycolipid synthesis is abnormal, comprising administering to a subject an effective amount of the compound of any one of claims 1 to 4.

29. (Withdrawn–Previously presented) The method of claim 28, wherein cancer is selected from the group consisting of brain cancer, neuronal cancer, neuroblastoma, renal adenocarcinoma, malignant melanoma, multiple myeloma and multi-drug resistant cancers.

30. (Withdrawn–Previously presented) A method for treating Alzheimer's disease, epilepsy, stroke, Parkinson's disease or spinal injury, comprising administering to a subject an effective amount of the compound of any one of claims 1 to 4.

31. (Withdrawn–Previously presented) A method for treating a disease caused by an infectious microorganism which utilizes glycolipids on a host cell surface as receptors for either the organism itself or for toxins produced by the organism, or an infectious microorganism for which the synthesis of glucosylceramide is essential for its survival, comprising administering to a subject an effective amount of the compound of any one of claims 1 to 4.

32. (Withdrawn–Previously presented) A method for treating a disease associated with abnormal glycolipid synthesis, comprising administering to a subject an effective amount of the compound of any one of claims 1 to 4.

33. (Withdrawn–Previously presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the disease is selected from the group consisting of polycystic kidney disease, diabetic renal hypertrophy and atherosclerosis.

34. (Withdrawn–Previously presented) A method for treating a condition treatable by the administration of a ganglioside, comprising administering to a subject an effective amount of the compound of any one of claims 1 to 4.

35. (Withdrawn–Previously presented) A method for reversibly rendering a male mammal infertile, comprising administering to the male mammal an effective amount of the compound of any one of claims 1 to 4.

36. (Withdrawn–Previously presented) A method for treating obesity, comprising administering to a subject an effective amount of the compound of any one of claims 1 to 4.

37. (Withdrawn–Previously presented) A method for treating an inflammatory disease or disorder associated with macrophage recruitment and activation, comprising administering to a subject an effective amount of the compound of any one of claims 1 to 4.

38. (Withdrawn–Previously presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the disease or disorder is selected from the group consisting of rheumatoid arthritis, Crohn's disease, asthma or sepsis.